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Westminster, October 27.

THE Parliament met last *Thursday*; and Her Majesty being come to the House of Peers, and seated on the Throne in Her Royal Robes, with the usual Solemnity, a Message was sent to the Commons by Mr. *Aston*, Deputy Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, requiring their Attendance in the House of Peers, whither they came accordingly. The Lord Keeper then, by Her Majesty's Command, signified to them Her Royal Pleasure, *That they should forthwith proceed to the Choice of a fit Person to be their Speaker, and present him to Her Majesty this day.* The Commons being returned to their own House, made Choice of the Rt. Hon. *John Smith* Esq; to be their Speaker; who being this day presented to Her Majesty, seated on Her Throne in the House of Peers, Her Majesty was graciously pleased to Approve the Choice of a Person so well qualified for that high Employment: And then made a most gracious Speech to both Houses, which follows.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

I Have been very desirous to meet you as early as I thought you might be called together without Inconvenience to your selves:

And it is with much Satisfaction I observe so full an Appearance at the Opening of the Parliament, because it is a Ground for Me to conclude you are all Convinced of the Necessity of Prosecuting the Just War, in which We are Engaged, and therefore are truly Sensible that 'tis of the greatest Importance to Us to be Timely in Our Preparations.

Nothing can be more evident, than that if the French *King continues Master of the* Spanish *Monarchy, the Balance of Power in* Europe *is utterly destroy'd, and he will be able in a short time to engross the Trade, and the Wealth of the World.*

No good Englishman *could at any time be content to Sit still and Acquiesce in such a Prospect; And at this time We have great Grounds to hope, that by the Blessing of God upon Our Arms, and those of Our Allies, a good Foundation is laid for Restoring the Monarchy of* Spain *to the House of* Austria; *the Consequences of which will not only be Safe and Advantageous, but Glorious for* England.

I may add, We have learnt by Our own Experience, that no Peace with France *will last longer than the first Opportunity of their dividing the Allies, and of Attacking some of them with Advantage.*

All Our Allies must needs be so sensible, this is the true State of the Case, that I make no Doubt but Measures will soon be so concerted, as that if We be not wanting to Our Selves, We shall see the next Campagne begin Offensively on all sides against Our Enemies, in a most vigorous manner.

I must therefore desire you, Gentlemen of the House of Commons, *to Grant Me the Supplies, which will be requisite for Carrying on the next Year's Service both by Sea and Land, and at the same time to Consider, that the giving all possible Dispatch will make the Supply it self much more effectual.*

The Firmness and Conduct which the Duke of Savoy *has shewn amidst extream Difficulties, is beyond Example.*

I have not been wanting to do all that was possible for Me, in Order to his being Supported.

I ought to take Notice to you, that the King of Prussia's *Troops have been very useful to this End. Your Approbation of that Treaty last Session, and the Encouragement you gave upon it, leave Me no Doubt of being able to renew it for another Year.*

I take this Occasion to assure you, that not only whatever shall be granted by Parliament for bearing the Charge of the War, shall be laid out for that Purpose, with the greatest Faithfulness and Management; But that I will continue to add out of My own Revenue, all I can reasonably Spare beyond the necessary Expences for the Honour of the Government.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

By an Act of Parliament passed the last Winter, I was Enabled to appoint Commissioners for this Kingdom, to Treat with Commissioners to be impower'd by Authority of Parliament in Scotland, *concerning a nearer and more complete Union between the two Kingdoms, as soon as an Act should be made there for that purpose; I think it proper for Me to acquaint you, that such an Act is lately passed there, and I intend in a short time to cause Commissions to be made out, in order to put the Treaty on foot, which I heartily desire may prove successful, because I am perswaded, that an Union of the two Kingdoms will not only prevent many Inconveniences, which may otherwise happen, but must conduce to the Peace and Happiness of both Nations, and therefore I hope I shall have your Assistance in bringing this Great Work to a good Conclusion.*

There is another Union I think My Self Obliged to recommend to you in the most earnest and affectionate manner, I mean an Union of Minds and Affections amongst Our Selves; It is that which would above all things Disappoint and Defeat the Hopes and Designs of Our Enemies.

I cannot but with Grief observe, there are some amongst Us, who endeavour to foment Animosities, but I perswade My Self, they will be found to be very few, when you appear to assist Me in Discountenancing and Defeating such Practices.

I mention this with a little more Warmth, because there have not been wanting some so very Malicious, as even in Print to Suggest the Church of England, *as by Law Established, to be in Danger at this time.*

I am willing to hope, not one of My Subjects can really entertain a Doubt of My Affection to the Church, or so much as suspect that it will not be My chief Care to Support it, and leave it secure after Me; and therefore We may be certain, that they who go about to Insinuate things of this Nature, must be Mine and the Kingdoms Enemies, and can only mean to cover Designs, which they dare not publickly own, by endeavouring to distract Us with unreasonable and groundless Distrusts and Jealousies

I must be so plain as to tell you, the best Proofs We can all give at present of Our Zeal for the Preservation of the Church, will be to join heartily in Prosecuting the War against an Enemy, who is certainly engaged to Extirpate Our Religion, as well as to Reduce this Kingdom to Slavery.

I am fully resolved, by God's Assistance, to do My Part.

I will always affectionately Support and Countenance the Church of England, *as by Law Established.*

I will inviolably Maintain the Toleration.

I will do all I can to prevail with my Subjects to lay aside their Divisions, and will study to make them all Safe and Easy.

I will endeavour to promote Religion and Virtue amongst them, and to encourage Trade, and every thing else that may make them a Flourishing and Happy People.

And they, who shall concur zealously with Me in Carrying on these good Designs, shall be sure to find My Kindness and Favour.

Warsaw